

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 3, 10, 14, 17, 19 and 21 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1 and 16 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 7, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are now pending in this application.

Request for Entry of After-final Amendment and Reply:

Applicant respectfully requests that this after-final Amendment and Reply be considered and entered, since: a) at the very least, it lessens the number of potential issues for appeal, and b) it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Specification Amendments:

The specification has been amended on page 9 so that it does not refer specifically to any claim.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 11, 16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,528,682 to Cotreay in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,277,648 to Glassman; claims 4, 14, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cotreay in view of Glassman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,865,992 to Bouty et al.; claims 7, 15, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cotreay in view of Glassman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,007,335 to Heatherington et al.; and claims 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cotreay in view of Glassman in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,941,939 to Holmes and further in view of Heatherington et al. These rejections are

traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claims 1 and 16 have each been amended to recite that: said control circuit connects said feeding circuit to said switching circuit group and connects said level converter to said switching circuit group when said terminal is in an on-hook state, and

wherein said control circuit connects said feeding circuit and said switching circuit group and disconnects said level converter from said switching circuit group when said terminal is in an off-hook state, and

wherein loop monitoring information provided by said feeding circuit is not provided to said control circuit when said feeding circuit is disconnected from said switching circuit group.

Accordingly, by providing a level converter for connecting to the switching circuit group when the terminal is off-hook and by providing a feeding circuit for connecting to the switching circuit group when the terminal is on-hook, any problems can be determined in the telephone lines no matter the state of the terminal (e.g., on-hook or off-hook).

None of the cited art of record teaches or suggests the above-mentioned features recited in presently pending claims 1 and 16. Rather, Cotreay discloses a double duty capacitor circuit in which two filters connected to different inputs that do not operate at the same time share a common capacitor to thereby reduce the number of capacitors needed for the circuit. See Abstract of Cotreay.

Column 3 of Cotreay describes the switching of either a SLIC 32 or a ring trip detector 36 to the telephone line, based on whether or not the telephone 30 is being called. There does not appear to be any loop monitoring information being provided to any control circuit of Cotreay when the ring trip detector 36 is connected to the telephone line. Rather, the ring trip detector 36 detects a ringing condition – that's all.

Additionally, the ring trip detector 36 of Cotreay cannot correspond to the claimed feeding circuit, since it does not convert a two-wire signal into a first signal predetermined coefficient-fold. Rather, it detects ring trip using a low pass filter 44, as described in column 3, lines 16-17 of Cotreay. Also, the ring trip detector 36 of Cotreay cannot correspond to the claimed level converter, since it does not provide any level conversion, and more specifically, since it does not convert the two-wire signal into a second predetermined coefficient-fold.

Since none of the other cited art of record rectifies the above-mentioned shortcomings of Cotreay, presently pending independent claims 1 and 16 are patentable over the cited art of record.

The presently pending dependent claims under rejection are patentable due to their respective dependence on either claim 1 or claim 16, as well as for the specific features recited in those dependent claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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